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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01429 210444Z

15
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EB-11 INR-11 LAB-06

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 SIL-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 NSC-07

NSCE-00 SS-20 PPT-02 SCA-01 DRC-01 /093 W
---------- 003160
R 210415Z AUG 74
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2269
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1429

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, CH, US
SUBJECT: USG SERVICES AT THE 1974 FALL CANTON TRADE FAIR

REF: HONG KONG 9279; PEKING 1332

1. AS AN ADDENDUM TO HONG KONG'S 9279, WE SUGGEST ONE ADDITIONAL ARGUMENT TO WHICH WE THINK THE CHINESE ARE SENSITIVE, AND WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO USE IN CONNECTION WITH THE REQUEST FOR VISAS FOR CONGEN OFFICERS TO ATTEND THE CANTON FAIR.

2. THE CHINESE HAVE LONG PERMITTED COMMERCIAL OFFICERS FROM OTHER CONSULATES AND TRADE COMMISSIONS IN HONG KONG TO ATTEND THE FAIR TO ASSIST REPRESENTATIVES FROM THEIR MISSIONS IN PEKING (SEE HONG KONG 4228 FOR A LIST OF THOSE WHICH ATTENDED THE SPRING FAIR). BY DENYING VISAS TO CONGEN OFFICERS TO ATTEND THE FAIR, THE CHINESE ARE CLEARLY DEPARTING FROM THIS PRACTICE AND GIVING UNEQUAL AND UNFAVORABLE TREATMENT TO THE UNITED STATES. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE, LAST SPRING THIS TOUCHED OFF PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC SPECULATION ABOUT A DECLINE IN SINO-US RELATIONS; THIS WILL OCCUR AGAIN IF VISAS ARE REFUSED THIS FALL. THE CHINESE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THIS UNEQUAL TREATMENT OF US REPRESENTATIVES AND THE ATTENDANT BAD PUBLICITY IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF A CONTINUAL
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IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

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3. ONE MORE POINT WHICH THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO NOTE IS THAT THE PRC IN THE PAST PERMITTED COMMERCIAL PEOPLE FROM OTHER MISSIONS IN HONG KONG TO ATTEND THE CANTON FAIR EVEN THOUGH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAD NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED. EXAMPLES ARE BELGIUM, CANADA, FRG AND AUSTRIA. IN THIS LAST CASE, THE AUSTRIANS HAD A TRADE OFFICE IN PEKING.
BRUCE

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Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: papenddr
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From: PEKING
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